2007 to augment the buffer stocks of the Government. Government is maintaining a close watch on the prices situation of essential commodities and will take appropriate action as warranted.

Import of pulses

†3250. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to import pulses in order to increase their supply in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that 3.4 million tonnes of pulses are estimated to be available for import in the international market, at present;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that prices of pulses in international market have already increased due to our country's demand for the import of 1.5 million tonnes of pulses; and

(e) if so, the facts in this regard and whether there is no possibility of decline in the prices of pulses in the country from their import due to increase in their prices in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As estimated by trade, the global exportable surplus of pulses is estimated at about 3.9 million tonnes.

(d) and (e) Prices of pulses in the international market have generally registered a rising trend in the last one year. However, in the last three months, international prices of urad have registered a decline. Decline in the domestic prices of pulses is dependent upon a number of factors such as domestic production, quantity of pulses imported, demand for pulses and international prices scenario.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.